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PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Fundamental standards of humanity

Report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to Commission resolution 2000/69

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 2000/69, the Commission on Human Rights recognized the desirability of a process of identifying and respecting fundamental standards of humanity applicable in all situations in a manner consistent with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations. The Commission requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), to submit a further report covering relevant developments to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session.

2. The Commission, taking note of the report of the expert meeting on fundamental standards of humanity (E/CN.4/2000/15) convened in Stockholm from 22 to 24 February 2000 by the Governments of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, invited States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to engage in discussions in relevant forums on strengthening the protection of the individual in all situations, with a view to promoting the ongoing process of fundamental standards of humanity.

3. The present report reflects relevant recent developments in relation to these issues. The comments and advice of ICRC in the preparation of the report are gratefully acknowledged.

II. GENERAL COMMENTS

4. As has been noted in previous reports (E/CN.4/2000/94, paras. 7-12; E/CN.4/1999/92, para. 3; E/CN.4/1998/87, para. 8) the need for identifying fundamental standards of humanity arises from the recognition that it is often situations of internal violence that pose the greatest threat to human dignity and freedom. The point at which those situations will reach the threshold level required for the application of international humanitarian law is not always clear. At the same time, the effectiveness of the protection offered by human rights law until now has been limited, for example, in states of emergency where Governments may derogate from their international human rights obligations. Furthermore, most armed conflicts today are of an internal, rather than international nature. The rules of applicable international humanitarian law may differ depending on the nature and the intensity of the armed conflict. The process of identifying fundamental standards of humanity therefore stems from a recognition of the need for a statement of principles, to be derived from human rights and international humanitarian law, which would apply to every one in all situations.

5. Early discussions on the issue resulted in the adoption, by a group of non-governmental experts, of the Declaration on Minimum Humanitarian Standards (the "Turku Declaration") in 1990, which was submitted to the Commission on Human Rights for consideration initially in 1995 (see E/CN.4/1995/116). In recent years, this process has been discussed by Governments, independent experts and non-governmental organizations at meetings in Oslo (the Norwegian Institute of Human Rights), Vienna (the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe), Cape Town (United Nations workshop) and, most recently, in Stockholm (Nordic Governments). The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights hosted an informal consultation in September 2000, with participation from Governments, non-governmental organizations, independent experts and ICRC, which identified the subject matter to be covered in the present report.

6. The result of these consultations has been general agreement that there are no evident substantive legal gaps in the protection of individuals in situations of internal violence. There is also broad-based agreement that there is no need for new standards. Nevertheless, situations of internal violence and non-international armed conflicts, including situations where there is a need to ensure accountability of non-State actors, pose particular challenges to securing practical respect for human rights and international humanitarian law. The process of identifying fundamental standards of humanity should therefore aim to strengthen practical protection through the clarification of uncertainties in the application of international humanitarian and human rights law. The starting point for this process is the need to identify fundamental principles applicable to all actors and at all times, including in situations of internal violence as well as in peacetime and situations of armed conflict. As a re-statement of existing principles, fundamental standards of humanity should serve to strengthen the implementation of legal norms and should carry political and moral force in dialogue with non-State actors.

7. In the light of the challenges posed by the character of contemporary conflicts and the involvement of non-State actors in particular, four key issues regarding the protection of fundamental rights in crisis situations have been identified. the threshold of applicability of international humanitarian law; the question of how to deal with States and other actors which have not ratified or cannot ratify treaties; the question of derogation from human rights treaties; and the accountability of armed groups and other non-State actors.

8. The present report constitutes one stage of this ongoing process and will focus on developments that contribute to the clarification of legal uncertainties. The report does not purport to give an exhaustive analysis of the legal developments related to the process of identifying fundamental standards of humanity. Rather, it highlights relevant developments from the ad hoc International Criminal Tribunals and through the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC Statute). These developments have contributed to improving protection of individuals in all situations through, for example, the elaboration of the rules applicable in internal armed conflict, the establishment of individual criminal responsibility under international law for violations of laws applicable to all armed conflicts and the clarification of the conditions under which a State may be held responsible for acts by non-State entities. An important contribution has also been made through increased State ratification of key instruments of human rights and international humanitarian law. In addition to these developments, practical issues related to the implementation of legal norms are addressed through a review of select ground rules and codes of conduct recently elaborated between parties in the field.

III. RELEVANT DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

A. Jurisprudence of the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda

9. The elaboration and application of the statutes of the International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda and the adoption of the ICC Statute have contributed significantly to the substantive development of international law, in particular with regard to the

application of the rules of international humanitarian law governing non-international armed conflicts and war crimes, the definitions of genocide and crimes against humanity, and the accountability of non-State actors.

10. The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) was the first international court charged with prosecuting crimes under international law since the post-Second World War Nürnberg and Tokyo tribunals. It was established by the Security Council in 1993 and has jurisdiction over four categories of crimes under international law: grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, violations of the laws and customs of war, genocide and crimes against humanity. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) was created in 1994 to deal with atrocities committed in that country. While nearly identical to ICTY in terms of structure and mode of operation, ICTR differs in its subject-matter jurisdiction. ICTR may prosecute for genocide, crimes against humanity and violations of article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and of Additional Protocol II to the Conventions.

11. The decisions and judgements of the ad hoc International Criminal Tribunals have made a particular contribution to an increased alignment between the rules applicable in international and non-international armed conflicts. The Tribunals' jurisprudence has also contributed to the further elaboration and development of rules applicable specifically in internal armed conflict.[1] According to the ICTY jurisprudence, there is a common core of substantive international humanitarian law applicable in both international and non-international armed conflicts. In the *Tadic* jurisdiction decision, the Appeals Chamber noted that an extensive body of customary international law applicable to non-international armed conflict had developed. The Chamber confirmed the earlier decision of the International Court of Justice in the *Nicaragua* case, which had stated in unequivocal terms that the norms enumerated in article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 are declaratory of substantive customary international law and that common article 3 constitutes a minimum yardstick for all types of armed conflict.[2] The Chamber elaborated on the *Nicaragua* decision to outline the principal elements of the body of law applicable in internal armed conflicts, which include: rules relating to the protection of civilians and civilian objects; general duty to avoid unnecessary harm; certain rules on means and methods of warfare, especially the ban on the use of chemical weapons and perfidious methods of warfare; and protection of certain objects such as cultural property.[3] It noted that the general essence of the rules and principles governing international armed conflicts, as opposed to the detailed regulation these rules may contain, extends to internal armed conflicts.[4]

12. ICTY further confirmed the existence of a common corpus of international humanitarian law in the rule 61 proceeding against Milan Martic.[5] In that case, the Trial Chamber elaborated the principles on the body of customary international law applicable to all armed conflicts, regardless of their characterization as international or non-international. This body of law is considered to include "general rules or principles designed to protect the civilian population as well as rules governing means and methods of warfare."[6] Some commentators have suggested that the affirmation of this common core has reduced the need to characterize armed conflicts as international or internal.

13. ICTY has based its interpretation of the laws applicable in armed conflict on the following definition: "an armed conflict exists whenever there is a resort to armed force between

States or protracted armed violence between governmental authorities and organized armed groups or between such groups within a state."[7] This definition is itself an important development, as it builds on existing provisions of international humanitarian law.[8]

14. ICTY has also clarified, to a certain extent, the distinction between non-international armed conflict and situations of civil unrest or terrorist activities. According to the Tribunal in the *Celebici* judgement, in making this distinction the emphasis should be on the protracted extent of the armed violence and the extent of the organization of the parties involved.[9] With regard to the involvement of armed groups or other non-State entities, the jurisprudence of the Tribunal suggests there is no requirement that such entities should exert control over part of a territory, or that such armed forces have a responsible command - only that there is protracted armed violence between organized armed groups.[10]

15. The increased alignment between rules governing international and non-international armed conflicts is supported by other developments in international humanitarian law. The forthcoming ICRC study on customary rules of international humanitarian law makes a basic distinction between international and non-international armed conflicts and draws out many of the rules common to both situations. The regulations on the observance by United Nations forces of international humanitarian law, which restate a number of rules of international humanitarian law, do not distinguish between the international and non-international conflicts in which United Nations forces are involved.[11] The ICC Statute maintains the distinction between international and non-international armed conflicts, however, it defines war crimes as encompassing violations committed in all situations of armed conflict.[12]

B. Individual criminal responsibility

16. The principle that individuals should be held internationally criminally responsible for acts considered to be harmful by the international community has been well established since the Nürnberg and Tokyo trials following the Second World War. The establishment of individual criminal responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law has, however, been substantially developed in recent years. In terms of institutions, the creation of the International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda by the United Nations Security Council signalled an important advance, while the adoption in July 1998 of the ICC Statute marked a further vital step towards individual criminal responsibility for such violations.

17. The ICTY Statute provides for individual criminal responsibility in article 7 (1), which states that "a person who planned, instigated, ordered, committed or otherwise aided and abetted in the planning, preparation or execution of a crime referred to in articles 2 to 5 of the present Statute, shall be individually responsible for the crime". The Statute also holds that heads of State, government officials, and persons acting in an official capacity are not immune under this provision. The Security Council laid the ground for the establishment of individual criminal responsibility under international law for acts committed in non-international armed conflict through its decision to include violations of common article 3 to the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol II in the Statute of ICTR. The Statute is the first international instrument to provide for such responsibility and was an important step towards similar provisions in the ICC Statute.

18. In terms of jurisprudence, the decision of the ICTY Appeals Chamber in the *Tadic* jurisdiction decision broke important ground, in that it was the first assertion by an international or national tribunal that individual criminal responsibility under international law exists for violations of laws applicable to internal armed conflicts.[13] Importantly, the ICTY Appeals Chamber also considered the question of the conditions under which a State could be held responsible for acts by non-State entities in a later decision in the *Tadic* case.[14] It distinguished between the case of single individuals or groups not organized into military structures, on one hand, and that of armed forces, militias or paramilitary units on the other. The Tribunal considered that the latter consisted of individuals making up organized and hierarchically structured groups, such as a military unit or, in case of war or civil strife, armed bands or irregulars or rebels.[15]

19. The meaning and scope of the principle of command or superior responsibility has been clarified in the ICTY case law. In the *Celebici* case, ICTY defined the following as components of superior responsibility: (1) a superior-subordinate relationship; (2) the command/superior must have known or had reason to know that the subordinates were committing crimes; and (3) must have failed to take necessary and reasonable measures to prevent and punish them.[16] The Trial Chamber emphasized that the relationship must be one of "effective control", suggesting that superiors may engage criminal responsibility even in informal structures as long as there exists an effective command.[17] Further, a superior may be responsible not only for giving unlawful orders to commit a crime under the Statute, but also for failing to prevent a crime or to deter the unlawful behaviour of its subordinates through punishment. Moreover superior responsibility may extend, according to the Trial Chamber, "not only to military commanders but also to individuals in non-military positions of superior authority".[18] On the other hand, a claim that an individual was acting upon an order of a Government or superior will not relieve responsibility, and obedience to a superior order may be a mitigating factor only, "if justice so requires".

20. The ICC Statute identifies several categories of individuals who may be held responsible for crimes under international law. The Statute advances the criminalization of offences committed in non-international armed conflicts in particular, while maintaining the distinction between international and internal armed conflicts. Individual criminal responsibility is provided for those individuals who commit, attempt to commit, order, solicit, induce, aid, abet, assist or intentionally contribute to the commission of a crime within the Court's jurisdiction. In addition, incitement to commit genocide is prohibited. Article 27 holds that the Statute applies to all persons without distinction, including on the basis of official capacity such as head of State, member of Government or elected representative. Military commanders and other superior authorities are responsible for crimes committed by subordinates under their control, according to article 28.

21. The "superior orders" defence is developed in the ICC Statute, which departs slightly from the interpretation applied by the ad hoc International Criminal Tribunals. Article 33 (1) of the Statute states that superior orders shall not relieve a person of criminal responsibility unless the subordinate was under a legal obligation to obey the order and did not know that the order was unlawful, and the order was not manifestly unlawful. Orders to commit genocide or crimes against humanity are, according to article 33 (2), manifestly unlawful.

C. Crimes under international law

1. Genocide

22. In the provisions regarding the crime of genocide, the ICTY Statute, the Statute of the ICTR and the ICC Statute all restate the definition of genocide found in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 1948. The crime of genocide has, however, been interpreted and developed in recent case law. ICTR gave the first judicial interpretation of the 1948 Genocide Convention in the *Akayesu* case. The Trial Chamber adopted a broad interpretation of genocide, including rape and sexual violence when committed with the intent to destroy in whole or in part a covered group.[19] The Trial Chamber also interpreted the offence of "direct and public incitement to commit genocide" as entailing a provocation to commit genocide "whether through speeches, shouting or threats uttered in public places or at public gatherings, or through the sale or dissemination, offer for sale or display of written material or printed matter in public places or at public gatherings, or through the public display of placards or posters, or through any other means of audiovisual communication".[20]

2. Crimes against humanity

23. The statutes and jurisprudence of the ad hoc International Criminal Tribunals and the definition of the core crimes contained in the ICC Statute have contributed to the clarification, and have reinforced certain elements of the definition of crimes against humanity. The criminalization of rape as a crime against humanity, for example, has been a major development. Further, according to the ICTY Statute there is no required nexus between the enumerated offence and an international armed conflict, although connection with an armed conflict is required. The Statute of ICTR does not mention armed conflict in its definition of crimes against humanity, thereby disassociating these crimes entirely from any type of armed conflict. With regard to the requirement of a discriminatory intent, the ICTY definition clarifies that discriminatory intent is required only for persecution offences. The ICTR Statute, on the other hand, maintains the requirement of discriminatory intent or grounds with regard to crimes against humanity.

24. The requirement that crimes against humanity be connected with armed conflict has been repeatedly rejected by other international bodies including the International Law Commission (ILC) in its 1996 Draft Code of Crimes Against the Peace and Security of Mankind.[21] In its commentary on article 18 of the Draft Code, the ILC notes that "the definition of crimes against humanity contained in the present article does not include the requirement that an act was committed in time of war or in connection with crimes against peace or war crimes as in the Nürnberg Charter. The autonomy of crimes against humanity was recognized in subsequent legal instruments which did not include this requirement".[22] ICTY has confirmed this reasoning, while respecting its own Statute which maintains a link between crimes against humanity and armed conflict. In the *Tadic* appeal, the Tribunal asserted that "(i)t is by now a settled rule of customary international law that crimes against humanity do not require a connection to international armed conflict. Indeed, ... customary international law may not require a connection between crimes against humanity and any conflict at all".[23]

25. Both the essence and the necessary elements of crimes against humanity have been considered by ICTY. The Tribunal explained the essence of crimes against humanity in the *Erdemovic* case, for example, as "transcend[ing] the individual because when the individual is assaulted, humanity comes under attack and is negated. It is therefore the concept of humanity as victim which essentially characterizes crimes against humanity".[24] In the *Tadic* case the Tribunal outlined the necessary elements of crimes against humanity as requiring that the actions of the accused be linked geographically and temporally with the armed conflict, that those actions "comprise part of a pattern of widespread or systematic crimes directed against a civilian population, and that the accused must have known that his actions fit into such a pattern".[25] The Tribunal suggested that crimes against humanity must involve a course of conduct and not just a particular act, but a single act may qualify as long as there is a link with the widespread or systematic attack against a civilian population. Moreover, according to ICTY, acts committed for purely personal motives can be crimes against humanity when committed in the context of widespread and systematic crimes.[26]

26. Whereas crimes against humanity could be committed only by States or individuals exercising State power during the Second World War, recent developments suggest a rejection of the requirement that they form part of a State policy or action. ICTY has noted that customary international law has evolved to take into account "forces which, although not those of the legitimate government, have de facto control over, or are able to move freely within, defined territory", including terrorist groups or organizations.[27]

27. With regard to the mens rea element of crimes against humanity, both customary international law and the ICC Statute suggest that no specific intent is necessary. They support a "knowledge" standard which requires only that there be a mental element connecting the underlying offence with the broader attack. The perpetrators need not intend to participate in the attack, nor must they realize that the act is in furtherance of a policy. ICTY has rejected the requirement of discriminatory intent, most recently in the *Aleksovski* appeal in which it affirmed that specific discriminatory intent is only required for the international crimes of persecution and genocide.[28] The Statute of ICTR is the only international legal instrument to require a discriminatory intent for crimes against humanity.

28. ICTY and ICTR have both considered the term "civilian population" in the context of crimes against humanity. In the *Tadic* decision, after reviewing several sources of law ICTY held that "a wide definition of civilian population ... is justified".[29] The Tribunal considered that "the presence of those actively involved in the conflict should not prevent the characterization of a population as civilian and those actively involved in a resistance movement can qualify as victims of crimes against humanity".[30] The term was considered again in the *Vukovar Hospital Decision*, where civilians or resistance fighters who had laid down their arms were considered as victims of crimes against humanity.[31] ICTR arrived at a similar conclusion with regard to crimes against humanity in the *Akayesu* judgement, where it held that "[w]here there are certain individuals within the civilian population who do not come within the definition of civilians, this does not deprive the population of its civilian character".[32]

29. The ICC Statute contains the first codification in a comprehensive multilateral instrument of crimes against humanity. Once established, ICC will have jurisdiction over such crimes whether they are committed in armed conflict or in peacetime, and regardless of whether they

were committed by State or non-State actors. Article 7 of the Statute defines a crime against humanity as an act committed as part of a "widespread or systematic attack against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack".[33]

30. The ad hoc International Criminal Tribunals have repeatedly affirmed that torture is prohibited by a general rule of international law and that, as a norm of *jus cogens*, the prohibition of torture is absolute and non-derogable in any circumstances.[34] The Tribunals have also adopted the broad definition of torture contained in the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of 1984 which is regarded, in any event, as customary international law.[35] It is important to note, however, that the definition of crimes against humanity in the ICC Statute develops the definition of torture and enforced disappearances by de-linking these offences from the official capacity of the perpetrator. Unlike the definitions contained in the Convention against Torture and the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the ICC Statute provides that, as crimes against humanity, torture and enforced disappearances can be committed by organizations or groups.

3. War crimes

31. The definition of war crimes has also been developed in the case law of ICTY and in the ICC Statute. In the *Tadic* case, the ICTY Trial Chamber examined the necessary connection between an offence and armed conflict, stating that "the existence of an armed conflict or occupation and the applicability of international humanitarian law to the territory is not sufficient to create international jurisdiction over each and every serious crime committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. For a crime to fall within the jurisdiction of the International Tribunal a sufficient nexus must be established between the alleged offence and the armed conflict which gives rise to the applicability of international humanitarian law."[36]

32. In elaborating the definition of war crimes, ICTY has also developed the notion of "protected persons" in international humanitarian law. In *Tadic* the Tribunal's Chambers discussed the definition of protected persons in international armed conflict, noting that acts could only be characterized as grave breaches if the victims were protected persons under the Geneva Conventions.[37] The Trial Chamber adhered to a literal interpretation of protected persons and held that the victims in *Tadic* were not in the hands of a party to the conflict of which they were not nationals. The Appeals Chamber, however, moved away from a strict adherence to the requirement of nationality and replaced it with factors such as allegiance to, and effective protection by the State. Noting the inadequacy of adhering to the notion of nationality in contemporary inter-ethnic conflicts, the Appeals Chamber held that international humanitarian law should be applied in accordance with "substantial relations" and effective diplomatic protection, rather than nationality. In the *Celebici* case, ICTY clarified this principle and emphasized the need for a flexible interpretation of the nationality requirement.[38]

33. The ICC Statute represents a significant development in that it is the first major multilateral treaty codification of certain war crimes when committed in non-international armed conflicts. The Statute includes armed conflict between government forces and organized armed groups as well as armed conflicts that may take place between such groups in its definition of non-international armed conflict and defines war crimes as encompassing violations committed in both international and non-international armed conflicts.

34. Article 8 (2) of the ICC Statute sets out four categories of acts which fall within the definition of war crimes. Apart from acts already prohibited as grave breaches in international armed conflicts under the Geneva Conventions, the Statute also includes a long list of other acts as war crimes when committed in international armed conflicts in article 8 (2) (b).[39] The article also criminalizes other serious breaches of laws and customs applicable in international armed conflicts based on various sources, including the Hague Conventions of 1907, the Geneva Conventions of 1949, the first Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions (Protocol I) of 1977, various conventions banning certain weapons and international customary law. Crimes committed during non-international armed conflicts are separated into two paragraphs in the ICC Statute. Article 8 (2) (c) criminalizes the acts enumerated in article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions, requiring that the acts involved be "serious".[40]

35. Under article 8 (2) (e), some of the acts listed as serious violations of the laws and customs of war when committed in international armed conflict also constitute war crimes in non-international armed conflict. The article defines non-international armed conflict as a protracted armed conflict on a State's territory between State forces and organized armed groups, or between organized armed groups. It draws on acts prohibited by Additional Protocol II, various treaties on the laws of warfare and customary international law.[41] It is important to note that the threshold for the existence of a non-international armed conflict in paragraph (e) is lower than the threshold of Protocol II, in that neither responsible commanders, nor control of a part of the territory is required.

D. Developments related to ratification and implementation of human rights and international humanitarian law

36. While a few international humanitarian law and human rights instruments have near-universal ratification (the four Geneva Conventions and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, for example), some international instruments that are particularly relevant in crisis situations have a much lower ratification record. Ratification of these instruments by States most at risk of experiencing situations of violent conflict is therefore especially important.

37. Recent efforts have been made to increase ratification of the core human rights and international humanitarian law instruments. In the United Nations Millennium Declaration, heads of State and Government resolved, *inter alia*, "to ensure the implementation by States parties of treaties in areas such as arms control and disarmament, and of international humanitarian law and human rights law", and called upon all States to consider signing and ratifying the ICC Statute.[42] States committed themselves to a variety of measures to ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and to ensure that civilian populations, and children in particular, are given every assistance and protection.

38. In preparation for the Millennium Summit, the Secretary-General identified a core group of 25 multilateral treaties which reflect the key policy goals of the United Nations and the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations. The core conventions, which include human rights treaties as well as conventions on refugees and stateless persons, penal matters, disarmament and the environment, were the object of a sustained effort to encourage signature and ratification.[43] The Secretary-General invited heads of State and Government to make use of the opportunity provided by the Millennium Summit to rededicate themselves to the international legal order.

39. States have made similar expressions of their commitment to ratification with regard to international humanitarian law. At the twenty-seventh International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 1999, Governments pledged to commit themselves, over the next four-year period, to ratify international humanitarian law treaties and to adopt appropriate implementing measures to give effect to international obligations at the national level. Pledges focused in particular on measures to repress war crimes, protect the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems, set up and continue supporting national commissions on international humanitarian law and develop programmes to teach and disseminate international humanitarian law.[44]

IV. GROUND RULES, CODES OF CONDUCT AND MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING

40. The role and responsibility of armed groups and other non-State actors in armed conflict and in situations of internal violence raises important challenges. While international humanitarian law applicable in non-international armed conflict does bind non-State actors, its rules are not sufficiently detailed to ensure comprehensive protection of persons affected by non-international armed conflict. Human rights law, on the other hand, formally binds only States. In order to ensure full respect for the rights of individuals in all situations, there is therefore a need for strategies to persuade armed groups to adhere to fundamental principles of international humanitarian law and human rights law.

41. An overview of agreements concluded at the field level provides some insight into how fundamental principles are being promoted on the ground between humanitarian agencies and both States and non-State entities. In general, two kinds of agreements are identified. The first is comprised of codes of conduct elaborated by humanitarian agencies themselves, which state guiding principles for agencies in their humanitarian work. A second category consists of agreements between these agencies and local authorities working, together with other parties, towards the implementation of humanitarian aid. The purposes of the agreements range from a reaffirmation and elaboration of fundamental humanitarian principles in light of a given emergency environment and the interpretation of international humanitarian and human rights law according to the needs of the crisis, to the establishment of general standards of conduct and achievement of humanitarian organizations, agreements on standards of conduct among humanitarian organizations and agreements on standards of conduct between them and parties to the conflict. A few examples are provided below.

42. The Agreement on the Implementation of Principles Governing the Protection and Provision of Humanitarian Assistance to War Affected Civilian Populations between the Government of Sudan, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the United Nations Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS)[45] commits the humanitarian actors involved in OLS and the relief wings of warring factions to certain mutual responsibilities. The agreement, which refers to the importance of "strict adherence to the highest standards of conduct and international humanitarian principles", is based upon principles including the right to humanitarian assistance, the right of civilians to full legal protection under international human rights law and international humanitarian law, transparency, accountability to donors and beneficiaries, and the protection of humanitarian personnel. Importantly, the agreement states that while the SPLM is "not legally responsible for protecting and promoting the legal rights and

entitlements of the civilian populations", it is "legally bound by customary human rights law and has a moral and ethical obligation to protect and promote the rights of the civilian population living in areas under its control".

43. Principles of Engagement for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance in the Democratic Republic of the Congo[46] were agreed upon to serve as a basis for seeking "consensus on a common approach to the delivery of humanitarian assistance" aimed at "increasing the efficiency and the pertinence of the delivered aid and maximizing the humanitarian space for the relief community". The Principles are addressed to the humanitarian community as well as to the political and military authorities. They refer explicitly to the Code of Conduct of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief as an integral part of the agreement. While the Principles contain a human rights clause which falls short of the commitment made in the OLS/SPLM Agreement in terms of acceptance of international human rights law by the parties to the conflict, they nonetheless reaffirm the place of human rights in humanitarian assistance.

44. In 1996, the Government of Burundi and UNICEF signed a Declaration of Commitment to the Protection of the Children of Burundi.[47] This Declaration recalls the Convention on the Rights of the Child, highlights provisions of international humanitarian law on the conduct of hostilities, the provisions of humanitarian assistance and the protection of children in armed conflict. It stresses the obligation of all parties to take steps to guarantee certain protection and assistance for children. The parties to the Declaration agree to elaborate a joint programme of action that should be implemented in cooperation with United Nations agencies, international and national NGOs and the communities.

45. The Code of Conduct for Humanitarian Assistance in Sierra Leone[48] contains certain guiding principles for States and non-State entities. The principles state that while the primary responsibility for the protection and well-being of the civilian population and respect for their human rights rests with the Government of the State or authorities in control of the territory, "insurgent groups and militia should be held to the same standard of responsibility as Governments".

V. OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

46. As noted in previous reports, two ongoing developments are of central importance to the process of fundamental standards of humanity.[49] First, the identification of customary rules of international humanitarian law in the forthcoming ICRC study should help to clarify some of the uncertainties or apparent gaps in conventional law and, in particular, to further elaborate the rules applicable in internal armed conflict. A second key development relates in particular to situations of internal disturbance or violence that do not reach the required threshold for the application of international humanitarian law by States. These situations may, under certain conditions, constitute a state of emergency that threatens the life of the nation which would justify derogation by the State from its obligations under international human rights law. It is, however, precisely in such situations that individuals are at greatest risk of human rights violations. The Human Rights Committee's forthcoming revision of its general comment on

article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights will help to clarify the circumstances under which a State may properly derogate from its obligations under the Covenant.

VI. CONCLUDING REMARKS

47. A brief mapping of some of the recent developments in international law, and in particular of the jurisprudence of the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda and the adoption of the ICC Statute, shows that important progress has been made towards the clarification of legal uncertainties with regard to fundamental standards of humanity.

48. From the review of the work of the two ad hoc International Criminal Tribunals, it is clear that the jurisprudence has made an important overall contribution to the protection of individuals in all situations through the reassertion of the centrality of the principle of human dignity to human rights law and international humanitarian law.[50] This contribution includes the elaboration of the rules applicable in situations of armed conflict and, in particular, the rules applicable in internal armed conflict, the establishment of individual criminal responsibility under international law for violations of laws applicable to all armed conflicts, and the clarification of the conditions in which States have responsibility for the actions of non-State entities.

49. Important issues remain unresolved and will require further consideration in the light of ongoing developments. It is clear from the above survey that fundamental principles of human rights and international humanitarian law should be central to field agreements concluded between States, non-State actors and humanitarian agencies. Given the nature of contemporary conflicts and the challenges related to the implementation of international legal standards in situations of internal armed conflict, however, the question of the obligations of non-State armed groups towards those within a territory or population they control merits further study. Other issues such as the relationship of individual members of such groups to the leaders or those with authority over the group should also be explored.[51]

50. Consideration of the ICRC study on customary rules of international humanitarian law and the Human Rights Committee's revised general comment on derogation, as already mentioned, will be vital to future study on fundamental standards of humanity. Further study should also benefit from a consideration of ongoing developments in regional human rights courts as well as national case law and legislation.

Notes

[1] *Prosecutor v. Tadic*, Case No. IT-94-1-AR72, Decision of 2 October 1995 on the Defence Motion for Interlocutory Appeal on Jurisdiction. Consider the statement made by the Appeals Chamber at para. 97: "Why protect civilians from belligerent violence, or even ban rape, torture or the wanton destruction of hospitals, churches, museums or private property, as well as proscribe weapons causing unnecessary suffering when two sovereign States are engaged in war, and yet refrain from enacting the same bans or providing the same protection when armed violence has erupted 'only' within the territory of a sovereign State? If international law, while

of course duly safeguarding the legitimate interests of States, must gradually turn to the protection of human beings, it is only natural that the aforementioned dichotomy should gradually lose its weight."

[2] Ibid., para. 102.

[3] Ibid., paras. 96-127.

[4] Ibid., para. 126.

[5] *Prosecutor v. Milan Martic*, Case No. IT-95-11-R61, Review of the Indictment Pursuant to rule 61, ICTY Trial Chamber, 8 March 1996.

[6] Ibid., paras. 10-18. At paragraph 12 the Chamber explained that "(t)he customary prohibition on attacks against civilians in armed conflicts is supported by its having been incorporated into both Additional Protocols. Article 51 of Additional Protocol I and article 13 of Additional Protocol II ... prohibit attacks against the civilian population as such, as well as individual civilians. Both provisions explicitly state that this rule shall be observed in all circumstances. The Appeals Chamber reaffirmed that both articles constitute customary international law."

[7] *Prosecutor v. Tadic*, op. cit., Appeal on Jurisdiction, paras. 67 and 70.

[8] Articles 2 and 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949; article 1, Additional Protocol I; article 1, Additional Protocol II.

[9] *Prosecutor v. Delalic et al. ("Celebici")*, Case No. IT-96-21, Trial Chamber Judgement of 16 November 1998, para. 184.

[10] *Prosecutor v. Tadic*, op. cit., Appeals Chamber judgement of 15 July 1999.

[11] Observance by United Nations forces of international humanitarian law (ST/SGB/1999/13), Secretary-General's Bulletin, 6 August 1999.

[12] Statute on the International Criminal Court, articles 8 (2) (c) and (e).

[13] *Prosecutor v. Tadic*, op. cit., Appeal on Jurisdiction.

[14] *Prosecutor v. Tadic*, op. cit., Appeals Chamber judgement of 15 July 1999.

[15] Ibid., para. 120.

[16] *Prosecutor v. Celebici*, op. cit.

[17] Ibid., paras. 354 and 378.

[18] Ibid., para. 363.

[19] *Prosecutor v. Akayesu*, Case No. ICTR-96-4-T, Trial Chamber Decision of 2 September 1998, para. 688: "The Tribunal defines rape as a physical invasion of a sexual nature, committed on a person under circumstances which are coercive. The Tribunal considers sexual violence, which includes rape, as any act of a sexual nature which is committed on a person under circumstances which are coercive. Sexual violence is not limited to physical invasion of the human body and may include acts which do not involve penetration or even physical contact."

[20] Ibid., para. 559.

[21] Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-eighth session, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 10* (A/51/10 and corrigendum), Chap. II.

[22] Ibid., article 18, commentary, para. (6).

[23] "Thus, by requiring that crimes against humanity be committed in either internal or international armed conflict, the Security Council may have defined the crime in article 5 more narrowly than necessary under customary international law. There is no question, however, that the definition of crimes against humanity adopted by the Security Council in article 5 comports with the principle of *nullum crimen sine lege*." *Prosecutor v. Tadic*, op. cit., Appeal on Jurisdiction, paras. 28-40.

[24] *Prosecutor v. Erdemovic*, Case No. IT-96-22-T, Sentencing Judgement of 29 November 1996, para. 28.

[25] *Prosecutor v. Tadic*, op. cit., Appeals Chamber judgement of 15 July 1999, para. 248.

[26] Ibid.

[27] The ILC Draft Code states that crimes against humanity must be "instigated or directed by a Government or any other organization or group", while the ICC Statute defines crimes against humanity in relation "to a State or organizational policy".

[28] *Prosecutor v. Aleksovski*, Case No. IT-95-14/1-A, judgement of 24 March 2000.

[29] *Prosecutor v. Tadic*, op. cit., Trial Chamber II Judgement of 7 May 1997, para. 643.

[30] Ibid.

[31] *Prosecutor v. Mrksic, Radic, Sljivancanin and Dokmanovic* ("*Vukovar Hospital Decision*"), Case No. IT-95-13a.

[32] *Prosecutor v. Akayesu*, op. cit., para. 582.

[33] The specific acts include murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation or forcible transfer of a population, imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty in violation of fundamental rules of international law, torture, rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity, enforced disappearance of persons, apartheid, other inhumane acts of a similar character intentionally causing great suffering or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health.

[34] *Prosecutor v. Celebici*, op. cit., para. 446 and *Prosecutor v. Furundzija*, Case No. IT-95-17/1, Trial Chamber II judgement of 10 December 1998, para. 139.

[35] *Prosecutor v. Celebici*, ibid., paras 452-459; *Prosecutor v. Furundzija*, ibid., paras. 143-162.

[36] *Prosecutor v. Tadic*, op. cit., Trial Chamber Judgement of 7 May 1997, para. 572.

[37] *Prosecutor v. Tadic*, op. cit., Appeals Chamber judgement of 15 July 1999.

[38] The commentary to the Fourth Geneva Convention charges us not to forget that "the Conventions have been drawn up first and foremost to protect individuals, and not to serve State interests" and thus ... that their protections should be applied to as broad a category of persons as possible. It would, indeed, be contrary to the intention of the Security Council, which was concerned with effectively addressing a situation that it had determined to be a threat to international peace and security, and with ending the suffering of all those caught up in the conflict, for the International Tribunal to deny the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention to any particular group of persons solely on the basis of their citizenship under domestic law. *Prosecutor v. Celebici*, op. cit., Trial Chamber Judgement of 16 November 1998, para. 263.

[39] Among them are sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, conscripting or enlisting children under 15, and attacking personnel or objects involved in a humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping mission.

[40] The following constitute war crimes when committed against individuals not directly participating in the hostilities, including members of armed forces who have laid down their arms or been placed hors de combat due to illness, injury, detention, or any other cause: violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture; committing outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment; taking of hostages; the passing of sentences and the carrying out of executions without previous judgement pronounced by a regularly constituted court, affording all judicial guarantees that are generally recognized as indispensable.

[41] The criminal acts listed under article 8 (2) (e) include: intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population not taking direct part in hostilities; intentionally launching attacks against

personnel or equipment of a humanitarian or peacekeeping mission; committing rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, and any other form of sexual violence also constituting a serious violation of the four Geneva Conventions; conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 years into armed forces or groups or using them to participate actively in hostilities; ordering the displacement of the civilian population for reasons related to the conflict, unless the security of the civilians involved or imperative military reasons so demand.

[42] United Nations Millennium Declaration, General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 18 September 2000.

[43] The instruments which attracted the most attention, and which were signed or for which instruments of ratification were deposited at the Millennium Summit, include:

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict - 59 signatures/2 ratifications;

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography - 57 signatures/1 ratification;

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women - 18 signatures/4 ratifications;

Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court - 12 signatures/4 ratifications;

International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism - 10 signatures/2 ratifications;

Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel - 7 ratifications and accessions.

The total number of ratifications for the core human rights treaties as of 15 November 2000 is as follows:

Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	123
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	156
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	143
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	147
Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	97

Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	44
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	166
Convention on the Rights of the Child	191

[44] Report of the Secretary-General on the Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts (A/55/173 and Add.1 and Corr.1 and 2); Plan of Action for the years 2000-2003, twenty-seventh International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, para. 36, available at www.icrc.org/eng/conf27. The number of ratifications of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their 1977 Protocols, as of 15 November 2000, is as follows:

Geneva Conventions I-IV	189
Protocol I	157
Protocol II	150

[45] Geneva, 15 December 1999.

[46] Available as an annex to the United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for the Democratic Republic of Congo (2000) at http://www.reliefweb.int/library/appeals/drc00.pdf.

[47] Déclaration d'engagement à la protection des enfants du Burundi, signed by the Government of Burundi and UNICEF, February 1996.

[48] Available as an annex to the United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Sierra Leone (1999) at http://www.reliefweb.int/library/appeals/sle99.pdf.

[49] Important work ongoing in other forums will also contribute to the process of fundamental standards of humanity. The International Institute of Humanitarian Law, for example, is developing a manual on international humanitarian law in internal armed conflicts. The Institute began work on the research project in 1999 with a view to improving knowledge of the principles and rules of conduct in non-international conflicts through the publication of "a manual of high standard, based on experience from various conflicts in different parts of the world and developed on the background of existing legal writings in this field". The manual will follow the example set by the *Manual on International Law Applicable to Armed Conflicts at Sea* published by the Institute in 1994 and will, importantly, be designed primarily for use by "operators", including members of both the regular State armed forces and armed groups.

[50] This notion was stressed by ICTY in the *Furundzija* case: "The essence of the whole corpus of international humanitarian law as well as human rights law lies in the protection of human dignity of every person, whatever his or her gender. The general principle of respect for human dignity is ... the very *raison d'être* of international humanitarian law and human rights law;

indeed in modern times it has become of such paramount importance as to permeate the whole body of international law. This principle is intended to shield human beings from outrages upon their personal dignity, whether such outrages are carried out by unlawfully attacking the body or by humiliating and debasing the honour, the self-respect or the mental well-being of a person." *Prosecutor v. Furundzija*, Case No. IT-95-17/I-T, op. cit., para. 183.

[51] Further consideration of the international legal accountability of non-State entities for human rights violations should benefit, *inter alia*, from the recent study by the International Council on Human Rights Policy on human rights approaches to armed groups.

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PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Public information activities in the field of human rights including the World Public Information Campaign on Human rights

Report of the Secretary-General

GE.01-10437 (E)

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Introduction

1. In its resolution 1999/60, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, at its fifty-seventh session, a report on public information activities, with special emphasis on the activities relating to the World Public Information Campaign.

2. The World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights was launched by the General Assembly in its resolution 43/128 of 8 December 1988, with the objectives of increasing understanding and awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms and educating the public on the international machinery available for the promotion and protection of those rights and freedoms and the efforts of the United Nations to realize them.

3. The coordination of the United Nations education and public information programmes in the field of human rights was specifically mentioned in General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, as part of the mandate of the post of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The High Commissioner for Human Rights has repeatedly stressed the importance she attaches to the implementation of activities for increasing the awareness of human rights among the general public.

4. The budget for the 2000-2001 biennium for external printing publications and for the upgrading of the Internet site is US$ 187,600. The publications programme of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is being restructured to respond to the increasing need for human rights information.

5. The present report supplements information and estimates provided in the Secretary-General's last report to the General Assembly (A/54/399). In addition, a report on the latest developments within the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004) is available to the Commission (A/55/360).

I. PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

A. Publications programme

6. In its resolution 1999/60, the Commission on Human Rights urged OHCHR, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, to cooperate closely in the realization of multimedia information programmes in the field of human rights.

7. In keeping with that directive, and in response to an urgent need to strengthen its publications programme, OHCHR commissioned an external review, which was carried out by a consultant in June and July 2000. Based on the recommendations made in the final report of the review, OHCHR decided to initiate a substantive revision of the programme.

8. The new publications programme will focus on basic publications such as fact sheets, key documents, training and education materials, issue papers and promotional materials with improved quality and multi-language availability. It will be developed and managed in parallel with the OHCHR Web site as a part of a comprehensive public information strategy.

9. Since the last report (E/CN.4/1999/86), OHCHR has continued to receive requests for human rights publications. According to a rough estimate, during the reporting period the Office has distributed more than 65,000 copies of human rights publications, in addition to the 3,500 copies of each publication which are distributed by the Distribution Section at the United Nations Office at Geneva through the mailing list established by OHCHR.

1. Fact Sheet Series

10. The Fact Sheet Series consists of booklets directed at a non-specialized audience, addressing various aspects of United Nations activities in the field of human rights. Fact Sheets are published in the six official languages of the United Nations and distributed worldwide free of charge.

11. OHCHR has put all the Fact Sheets on its Internet Web site, thereby enhancing their dissemination and contributing to a reduction in print runs and a rationalization of expenses.

12. In the reporting period, Fact Sheet No. 26, *The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention*, was published in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Fact Sheet No. 27, *Human Rights Defenders* is being edited.

2. Professional Training Series

13. An important teaching and educational tool is the Professional Training Series, designed primarily to provide support to the training activities of the programme of advisory services and technical assistance of OHCHR, as well as to assist other organizations involved in human rights education for professional groups.

14. During the period under review, No. 6 of the Series, *Human Rights Training: a Manual on Human Rights Training Methodology* was published in English, French and Russian. In collaboration with the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization, the volume *Human Rights - A Basic Handbook for UN Staff* was published in English, *hors serie*.

3. Human Rights Study Series

15. Since the last report to the Commission on Human Rights, and following the recommendations in the report by the Joint Inspection Unit (A/51/946 and Corr.1) entitled "United Nations Publications: enhancing cost-effectiveness in implementing legislative mandates" and the comments by the Secretary-General thereon (A/52/685) the OHCHR ad hoc Publications Board decided to discontinue the Human Rights Study Series, the content of which is already available in the form of United Nations documents.

4. 1998: Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights basic information kits

16. The series of basic information kits was conceived as working tools for agencies, programmes, non-governmental organizations and national institutions, as well as individuals, in the framework of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

5. United Nations Decades

17. In the framework of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education the booklet *The Right to Human Rights Education*, No. 3 of the series, was published in English. A revision of *ABC - Teaching Human Rights: Practical Activities for Primary and Secondary Schools* is in preparation. This booklet, previously issued as an ad hoc publication, will be included in the series.

6. Reference material

18. The reference publications of OHCHR, which are United Nations sales publications, are directed at a more specialized audience.

7. Periodicals

19. Since the last report to the General Assembly, issue No. 5 (Winter 1999) and issue No. 6 (Spring 2000) of the OHCHR magazine, entitled *Human Rights*, have been issued. The articles, written in English, French and Spanish, cover the various aspects of the work of the Office. The quarterly is printed in 13,000 copies and distributed throughout the world free of charge. Following a recommendation of the final report of the external review of the OHCHR publications programme, the publication of the quarterly review has been temporarily discontinued, but with the possibility of relaunching it in the future.

8. Ad hoc publications

20. Ad hoc publications consist mainly of reports and proceedings of conferences, workshops and other events held under the auspices of OHCHR.

21. During the reporting period, the volume *Business and Human Rights: A Progress Report* was published in English. The publication takes stock of the progress made by the business community in giving effect to the human rights principles of the Global Compact.

9. Promotional materials

22. OHCHR, in cooperation with the United Nations Department of Public Information, prepared flyers and brochures on the World Conference against Racism (see section D on the World Conference).

10. Media liaison

23. The Office has continued to strengthen its capacity to communicate the human rights message. OHCHR staff responsible for media liaison brief the international press regularly on the activities of the Office and on the human rights programme in general. The media liaison staff is also responsible for, among other duties, drafting press statements on behalf of the Office or the High Commissioner; organizing interviews and media appearances by the High Commissioner; assisting the special procedures mechanisms and the treaty bodies with their media liaison needs, and the drafting and placing of opinion pieces and other articles in major international publications.

B. Use of electronic means

24. During the reporting period significant achievements have been made in the posting of documents and other information on the OHCHR Web site as well as internal information systems. Since the launch of the Web site on 10 December 1996 (www.unhchr.ch), the average use of the site has increased from 1,000 to 30,000 user sessions a week and 3 million documents accessed per month. In order to respond to the rising demand, OHCHR has replaced its server, redesigned the home page and menus and provided live audio and recording of several meetings.

25. Four databases are now fully operational: (a) the treaty bodies database, with a total of almost 20,000 records and full-text documents available for public access; (b) the Charter-based bodies database, containing 19,300 human rights documents issued since 1994 by the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights; (c) the press database, containing, inter alia, all human rights press releases issued by the Department of Public Information; and (d) the statements database, providing access to public statements delivered by major United Nations human rights officials, as well as governmental representatives.

26. The six-week session of the Commission on Human Rights in 2000 was broadcast live on the World Wide Web.

27. Since the beginning of 2000, the OHCHR Web site has hosted a subsite that provides information relating to next year's World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

C. External relations programme

1. Briefings

28. OHCHR regularly organizes for students, diplomats, journalists, public officials, academics, professors and non-governmental organizations. It also provides lecturers for briefings organized by the Department of Public Information. One hundred and sixty such briefings were delivered by officers of the Office since the last report to the General Assembly.

2. Exhibitions and human rights observances

29. Since the last report to the General Assembly, OHCHR organized six exhibits. From 2 to 30 November 1999, in cooperation with the Literargymnasium Rämibühl, the exhibit "The Family of Man" was displayed in the Palais Wilson. From 7 to 31 December 1999, 30 lithographs donated by His Royal Majesty King Juan Carlos II of Spain to the United Nations and depicting the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were displayed in the Palais Wilson. In the second half of April 2000 OHCHR hosted, in collaboration with Médecins sans Frontières, the exhibit "The Wounds of Silence", by Nyamirambo Point d'Appui. An exhibit dedicated to the International Day for the Victims of Torture (26 June 2000) was displayed at the Palais Wilson from 22 June to 7 July. On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, OHCHR hosted an exhibit by the International Movement ATD Fourth World consisting of seven sculptures which were displayed in the Palais Wilson courtyard from 20 November 1999 to 20 November 2000. An eighth sculpture, consisting of about 5,000 stones sent from children from all over the world, is now on permanent display at the Palais Wilson.

30. Since the last report to the General Assembly, OHCHR participated in the commemoration of the International Day of Older Persons on 1 October 1999 in the Palais des Nations. On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 20 November 1999, OHCHR, in collaboration with the International Movement ATD Fourth World, hosted the "International Children's Forum Tapori: Friendship Triumphs over Poverty". More than 100 children living in poverty from all over the world met with the High Commissioner to state their needs. On 10 December 1999, Human Rights Day, a round table on the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, was held in the Palais Wilson with the participation of the High Commissioner, the then President of the Swiss Confederation, Ruth Dreifuss, and the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Vladimir Petrovsky. On that occasion the High Commissioner also named seven Goodwill Ambassadors for the World Conference against Racism: Tahar Ben Jelloun, Ruben Blades, Vigdis Finnbogadottir, Seamus Heaney, Ravi Shankar, Wole Soyinka and Marian Wright Edelman.

3. Fellowship programme

31. The human rights fellowship programme (established through General Assembly resolution 926 (X) of 14 December 1955) is financed under the OHCHR regular budget for advisory services. The objectives of the programme are to provide a thorough knowledge of the international system for the protection of human rights and specifically of the periodic reporting system established within the context of the major United Nations human rights instruments. OHCHR offers fellowships to governmental and non-governmental officials and representatives.

32. In 2000, the programme was carried out from 3 to 14 April 2000 at the premises of the United Nations Staff College in Turin, Italy. Thirty participants from 16 countries attended the training programme: Albania, Egypt, Gambia, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Madagascar, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Syrian Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam and Yemen.

4. Internship programme

33. During the reporting period, OHCHR offered internships to 142 graduate students to enable them to gain first-hand knowledge of United Nations actions and procedures in the field of human rights.

34. Internships are awarded without financial commitment of any kind on the part of OHCHR or the United Nations bodies. The need for funding interns from developing countries is an important priority for the Office.

5. Training courses and other technical cooperation activities with a public information element

35. An account of the training courses, seminars and workshops organized by OHCHR is given in the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights on technical cooperation in the field of human rights (E/CN.4/2001/104).

D. World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

36. In its resolution 52/111 the General Assembly decided to convene a World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, of which the High Commissioner is Secretary-General.

37. OHCHR will publish, every two months, a newsletter entitled *United against Racism, Durban 2001*. The first issue will appear in December 2000. The newsletter will report on the preparations for the World Conference. It will be published in English and French.

38. OHCHR, in cooperation with the United Nations Department of Public Information, has distributed flyers and brochures on the World Conference at the regional expert seminars held in Warsaw, Bangkok, Addis Ababa and Santiago de Chile, as well as at the various regional preparatory meetings. A poster for the World Conference, designed by the renowned French artist Tomi Ungerer, is in preparation.

39. The High Commissioner has proclaimed a number of international meetings as satellite meetings to the World Conference, including the Bellagio consultation on the World Conference, organized by the International Human Rights Law Group, in January 2000; the Conference on Discrimination and Tolerance organized by the Danish Centre for Human Rights in May 2000, and the "Beyond Racism" Conference, organized by the Southern Education Foundation, Inc. in South Africa May-June 2000.

40. On 23 October 2000 a special event at United Nations Headquarters brought together Goodwill Ambassadors of various United Nations agencies and organizations, including those for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. Nobel prize winner for literature Seamus Heaney, one of the seven Goodwill Ambassadors for the World Conference, briefed his colleagues about the World Conference.

41. On 7 December 2000 a videoconference hosted by international media and the Spanish-speaking television networks will be held in Santiago de Chile with the participation of the High Commissioner.

II. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

42. The Department of Public Information (DPI) continued to initiate and coordinate activities within the framework of the World Public Information Campaign and the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004. This work is also being carried out within the framework of three other ongoing decades: the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, 1993-2003; the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, 1995-2004; and the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, 1997-2006.

43. The Department carries out mandated programmes in such related areas as social, cultural and economic rights, the rights of specific groups, and other major issues such as the question of Palestine, decolonization, the advancement of women and the International Criminal Court.

44. The Department's effective coverage of United Nations human rights activities, as well as worldwide distribution of relevant human rights information materials, is ensured through a multimedia approach, which includes the production of printed materials regarding United Nations work in the field of human rights; making material available on the Internet on the United Nations Web site, through radio and television programmes, press conferences, press briefings and special events; exhibits; special media outreach activities and activities with educational organizations and non-governmental organizations; and public services for visitors and people with queries. These information materials are produced in the six United Nations languages and redisseminated, mainly through the network of 67 United Nations information centres and services and the eight United Nations Offices throughout the world.

45. During the period September 1999 to November 2000, the Department actively pursued its information campaign on human rights issues and because of the great demand for publications, the Department printed or reprinted and disseminated such documents worldwide. The Department also produced print materials to raise awareness of related issues, including women's rights. These print materials, as well as DPI press releases on United Nations meetings and documents, were distributed electronically to the network of information centres and services in addition to being posted on the United Nations Web site on the Internet. During the reporting period, some 300 DPI press releases on human rights issues were produced and distributed in English and French. All these press releases were also posted on the United Nations home page which, as of November 2000, averaged 2.5 million hits per day.

46. On the occasion of the European Regional Preparatory meeting for the World Conference against Racism, held in Strasbourg, France from 11 to 13 October 2000, an Op-Ed page on racism in Europe was written and placed in newspapers by DPI for the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Secretary-General of the World Conference against Racism.

47. The *Yearbook of the United Nations*, published each year by the Department, devotes a separate three-chapter section to human rights questions in each volume. The work of the

Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights is covered in depth, as is related action by the United Nations Secretary-General, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Reports by the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, special rapporteurs, independent experts and special representatives are summarized and linked to legislative action. In that context, the *Yearbook* describes activities carried out by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Department of Public Information under the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights. The Department also covered the issue of human rights widely in its general institutional publications. Through the United Nations News Service on the Web (www.un.org/News) and its print version, the Daily Highlights, the Department provided regular coverage of human-rights related stories, including the work of the United Nations human rights bodies as well as the activities of and statements by the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

48. The DPI publication, *Africa Recovery*, published about 25 articles pertaining to human rights in Africa.

49. The DPI publication, *UN Chronicle*, featured a number of articles devoted to human rights, including its regular "Rightswatch" section. Among them, in Issue 3, 1999, it featured an article by Hilde Johnson, Minister for International Development and Human Rights of Norway, about the link between international development and respect for human rights. In Issue 2, 2000, in an article entitled "Internalizing human rights in corporate business practices", the High Commissioner reported that the results of the "Millennium Survey", the world's largest-ever public opinion poll, which are featured in the Secretary-General's Millennium Report, show that the protection of human rights is the primary assignment of the United Nations. The centre pages, "Towards a tapestry of trust", list the nine principles that the Global Compact challenges business leaders to promote and apply, including two which the Secretary-General especially asked them to support concerning protection of human rights and prevention of human rights abuses. Also included is an article by J. Quinn Martin entitled: "Can international human rights activism be reconciled with agendas of national interest?". Issue 3, 2000 carried the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which has a section on "Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance", in its entirety.

50. Dissemination of human rights publications has been enhanced through the promotional activities of the Sales and Marketing Section of DPI. Publications have been featured in exhibits at professional conferences, in advertisements in journals such as the *Human Rights Quarterly* and included in catalogues and other brochures. As new publications are released they are also featured on the United Nations Publications Web site and posted as listings with commercial Internet sites, such as Amazon.com and Barnesandnoble.com. In addition, the United Nations Bookshop maintains a large section devoted to human rights issues where it promotes titles of both United Nations and other commercial and non-profit publishers.

51. In connection with the redesign of the United Nations Web site, the Human Rights site is directly accessible from the main pages in most of the official languages. From the main Web page, under the rubric "Issues on the UN Agenda", the Human rights section contains key documents, United Nations system calendar of events, statements on human rights by the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General, links to the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, information on

partnerships with NGOs on human rights, as well as a photo collection depicting 50 years of United Nations human rights activities. The United Nations CyberSchoolBus - the online site for young people and educators - has made available student briefing papers on various topics including human rights. There is a special section on "Human Rights in Action" which contains the Universal Declaration, including the complete text as well as a "plain language" version and a question and answer section. The Russian version of the page contains a special resource page, "Human Rights at School". A new Web site for the World Conference against Racism has been created in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

52. UNTV and UNPHOTO activities relating to human rights included regular coverage of statements before the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies by the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights. UNTV also produced and distributed worldwide the Secretary-General's statement on Human Rights Day and a video message by the High Commissioner was also distributed worldwide. UNTV and UNPHOTO also provided coverage for press conferences, including those by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as special events such as on 24 October 2000 when civil and human rights activists presented "A call to action to the United Nations" to the High Commissioner. A feature documentary was produced and distributed worldwide entitled: "Human Rights in Haiti: A Work-In-Progress".

53. "World Chronicle" TV programmes produced three programmes on the issue of human rights, including two interviews with the High Commissioner and one with the Director of the New York Office of OHCHR. The UNTV series in five languages, "UN in Action", which is distributed to broadcasters in more than 100 countries and is shown on the weekly programme "CNN World Report", produced human rights stories focusing on issues.

54. United Nations Radio covered extensively all aspects of human rights and related issues, including the forthcoming World Conference against Racism in its daily live broadcasts, news bulletins and weekly regional programmes. Since the launch of United Nations Radio's live daily radio broadcasts in the six languages in August 2000, they are all posted with other radio programmes on the World Wide Web and are available at http://www.un.org/av/radio. In addition, United Nations Radio produced more than 50 feature programmes exclusively devoted to the question of human rights, including the World Conference, in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish, Bangla, Dutch, Hindi, Indonesian, French-Creole, Kiswahili, Portuguese, Turkish and Urdu.

55. Activities were organized by the Department at Headquarters and the United Nations information centres and services around United Nations special events including International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (26 June), International Day of the World's Indigenous People (9 August), International Women's Day (8 March), International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March), International Day of Tolerance (16 November) and Human Rights Day (10 December).

56. For the observance of Human Rights Day 1999 at Geneva, the Department, with the collaboration of the OHCHR, organized a two-day programme on human rights for 14 editors

from media organizations in developing countries. The editors also attended a special ceremony to announce the appointment of the seven Goodwill Ambassadors for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

57. In New York, DPI provided media outreach, prepared press materials and arranged press conferences for the Human Rights Day 1999 observance focusing on the signing ceremony, organized by DPI and the Division for the Advancement of Women, for the new Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Secretary-General subsequently opened a special panel discussion on the Optional Protocol. A special Web page was created for the occasion. Human Rights Day special events in New York began with a press conference given by Goodwill Ambassador Ruben Blades. As part of the observance, the World Conference was highlighted as South African performers from the Broadway show "Kat and the Kings" discussed their experiences growing up under apartheid with students attending the annual Student Conference on Human Rights.

58. A series of events took place at Headquarters on 3 April 2000, starting with an exhibit entitled "Visas for life: the righteous diplomats" which honoured more than 80 diplomats who risked their lives and livelihoods to rescue Jews and other refugees during the Holocaust, 1938-1945. One of the four still living - Jan Karski, former Consul General of Poland - attended the programme, which consisted of a press conference, a screening of the film "Sugihara: Conspiracy of Kindness", the opening of the exhibit and a convocation in the General Assembly Hall. Gillian Sorensen, Assistant Secretary-General for External Relations, delivered a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General and Bacre Waly Ndiaye, Director of the New York Office of OHCHR, delivered a statement on behalf of the High Commissioner. Speakers included Nane Annan, wife of the Secretary-General whose uncle, the late Raoul Wallenberg of Sweden, was among the diplomats being honoured by the exhibit, as well as other diplomats and officials.

59. For the International Day of the World's Indigenous People, indigenous people from around the world gathered at Headquarters on 9 and 10 August 2000 to participate in special events. On 9 August, messages from the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner were read and a sacred pipe ceremony was conducted by Arvol Looking Horse, the nineteenth generation "Keeper of the Sacred Buffalo Calf Pipe" of the Lakota people. This was followed by a dialogue on indigenous children and youth. On 10 August, indigenous representatives took part in preparatory consultations for the World Conference.

60. During the reporting period, the DPI non-governmental organizations briefing programme included six briefings dealing with human rights issues. In December 1999, the Department organized a briefing that focused on preparations for the World Conference. The briefing, which included presentations by United Nations and government representatives and civil society experts, was entitled: "The 21st century - an era of human rights: the fight against racism".

61. Human rights issues were also highlighted by speakers in presentations in two of the plenary panels during the fifty-third annual DPI/NGO conference (28-30 August 2000). In addition, during the conference, NGOs associated with the Department organized five workshops

on human rights questions, including human rights and sustainable development; women, peace, and security; violence against women; the protection of children; and human rights as a foundation for global solidarity.

62. Two special briefings related to human rights were organized for the guides conducting guided tours during the reporting period: one on women and the special session of the General Assembly in July 2000 and one by Olara Otunnu, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, in November 2000 on children and armed conflict. Human rights is one of the major issues addressed in the course of the guided tour. During the reporting period, 496,377 visitors took the tour. The Department organized 21 briefings for groups visiting Headquarters with close to 2,000 participants, and arranged for United Nations officials to speak to groups away from Headquarters on the topic of human rights.

63. Since 1998, DPI has been organizing an annual day-long conference on human rights for students (grades K-12) and teachers in association with an international coalition of NGOs. The 1999 Student Conference, held on 10 December, brought together over 400 students and 200 teachers and parents from the United States of America, Mexico and Canada. The Department has also arranged an annual teachers' meeting at Headquarters. On 17 January 1999, the focus was on human rights as over 450 teachers, mainly from the New York public school system, discussed practical ways to teach human rights at the primary and middle-school levels. In addition, six smaller workshops with middle and high school teachers were arranged during the reporting period, each with a main focus on human rights. The question of human rights is discussed in several publications for children. Two of them, "Discovering the UN" (DPI/2006) and "Everything you always wanted to know about the United Nations" (DPI/1888) include chapters on human rights and offer classroom exercises for students and teachers. A new publication posted on the United Nations Web site, "Briefing papers for students" (DPI/2161), includes chapters on human rights, children's rights, the girl child and child labour. During the reporting period, it responded to over 1,200 inquiries on various aspects of human rights, including racism, women's and children's rights and the rights of refugees.

A. Activities of the United Nations Information Service Geneva at the United Nations Office at Geneva

64. The United Nations Information Service (UNIS) Geneva at the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) bears a special responsibility for promoting human rights, given its close involvement in the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Commission on Human Rights, the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and the majority of the sessions of the six human rights treaty bodies. The Service continues to provide on a sustained basis in-depth support for all aspects of the human rights programme. This includes issuing press releases on human rights matters and, in particular, providing English- and French-language press coverage of their meetings; providing radio and television coverage of the above-mentioned bodies; holding regular briefings by the UNIS Director and the Media and Information Officer of OHCHR for the Geneva-based press; organizing briefings for NGOs, university students and the public.

65. From September 1999 to November 2000 the department disseminated 1,115 press releases, in English and French, on human rights issues as follows: 91 on the High Commissioner for Human Rights; 138 on the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; 146 on the Commission on Human Rights; 60 on the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights; 136 on the Human Rights Committee; 176 on the Committee on the Rights of the Child; 94 on the Committee against Torture; 138 on the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; and 136 on the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

66. In addition, the Service reissued press releases produced at Headquarters relating to human rights, including statements by the Secretary-General. Press releases were distributed in hard copy (155,650 copies) to the 251 correspondents of the UNOG press corps, permanent missions and NGOs, transmitted by cc-mail to DPI New York and immediately posted on the United Nations Web site.

67. UNIS maintained its own home page in English and French, which gave prominence to human rights developments. UNIS continued its collaboration with the Internet team of OHCHR to ensure that press releases on human rights activities were available with links to the OHCHR site. This proved invaluable to journalists, students, Governments, NGOs, etc.

68. During the reporting period, 28 press conferences were held on human rights issues, of which four were given by the High Commissioner. Most of the press conferences were given by special rapporteurs or other experts on human rights issues during the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights.

69. UNIS arranged for television and radio coverage of the Commission, the Subcommission and the special sessions of the Commission on East Timor and on Palestine, as well as of the various human rights treaty bodies and numerous press conferences. Audio, editing and transmission facilities were made available to radio journalists, and 151 radio coverage and news reports were sent to United Nations Radio New York for use in Headquarters programmes; 89 television outputs from UNTV coverage were distributed through the European Broadcasting Union to television stations throughout the world. UNIS also recorded video messages by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, liaised with visiting television crews and provided editing and satellite transmission services.

70. During the fifty-sixth session of the Commission and the fifty-second session of the Subcommission, UNIS organized 38 briefings for representatives of NGOs given by special rapporteurs and experts. UNIS also organized six briefings for representatives of NGOs given by human rights experts on the occasion of special events such as the special session of the General Assembly on social development. UNIS arranged and held seminars for four NGOs (approximately 111 persons). During each session, a presentation was organized with staff members of OHCHR to introduce the work of the High Commissioner on Human Rights.

71. On 19 November 1999, UNOG celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. UNIS welcomed a delegation of 100 children from all over the world who had come to Geneva to participate in the Children's Forum organized by the NGO International Movement ATD Fourth World. UNIS also organized a guided tour of the Palais des Nations for

the children and the representative of UNICEF distributed presents to them. On 20 November, the children were received by the High Commissioner at the Palais Wilson. UNIS was in charge of organizing the ceremony and the guided tour. UNIS also took charge of the logistics concerning the Children's Forum.

72. Every guided tour offers a presentation on human rights lasting six to eight minutes. Guides highlight the importance given to civil and political rights; economic, social and cultural rights; the right to development and poverty eradication; the work of the treaty bodies in monitoring States' compliance with their obligations; the sensitive field work conducted by the special rapporteurs; the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in peacekeeping operations and promoting democracy, including human rights education; current priorities, such as the fight against trafficking in human beings and the forthcoming World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

73. Each year, within the Graduate Study Programme, a working group on human rights is constituted to study the various components of human rights within the theme of the current Programme. In 2000 the GSP Working Group on Human Rights examined some of the challenges that the United Nations may face in the prevention and protection of human rights in the new millennium, and made some strong recommendations in terms of prevention strategies.

74. UNIS organized 35 information programmes for groups (approximately 1,096 participants) from universities or other academic institutions in Europe and the United States of America. These groups specifically requested that a presentation be made by a staff member of OHCHR.

75. On 3 April 2000, a Model United Nations Millennium Summit was held in London. UNIS was instrumental in ensuring that students from Switzerland participated in this event. Particular emphasis was placed during the discussions on the human right to be free from hunger, violence and oppression as well as on tolerance of people's economic and cultural rights.

76. To celebrate United Nations Day, on 24 October 2000, a 1 hour 15 minute videoconference was held with the Worldlink 2000 Global Student Summit in Miami, Florida, United States of America, during which a six-minute video was shown on the activities of the UNOG and the specialized agencies at Geneva. A clip focusing on all the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was included. The majority of the questions put by the students in the ensuing question and answer session related to the actual impact of the article on children's rights in their country. A local class of schoolchildren was invited as observers.

77. UNIS participated as guest of honour in the Swiss exhibition Sion 2000. Among the documentation and materials prepared for this event, UNIS drafted the text for theme panels on various subjects, one of which being human rights. These theme panels were also reproduced on bookmarks and distributed to the public. More than 50,000 people visited the United Nations stand.

78. During the reporting period, UNIS successfully continued its information programme for information centres on the work of the treaty bodies when they meet at Geneva. The Service sent reports on the countries concerned, background press releases and the concluding

observations adopted at the sessions. In return, UNICs were requested to send opinion-oriented articles on the human rights debate, statements on government practices, etc. The reports and, when necessary, analyses of them were submitted to OHCHR, which then evaluated the impact of its human rights programme on the international media, or responded to any misconceptions.

79. UNIS, together with the Development and Human Rights Section of DPI, produced a 1999/2000 calendar of the sessions of the six human rights treaty bodies meeting in New York and Geneva. It also enumerated the country situations to be discussed with a view to alerting in advance the worldwide network of UNICs. The calendar was subsequently distributed to all UNICs and UNISs by the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information.

80. UNIS, in collaboration with OHCHR, issued a publication entitled *Human Rights and Older Persons* with a foreword by the High Commissioner. This contained information on the relevant economic, social and cultural rights of older persons, and incorporated principle United Nations documents on ageing. Over 2,000 copies were distributed to the public. UNIS also prepared a poster to advertise the International Day of Older Persons (1 October) and produced T-shirts with the logo of the Day for sale to the public.

81. During the special session of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation in Palestine, UNIS produced press releases, providing English- and French-language press coverage of the meeting; provided radio and television coverage; held regular briefings for the Geneva-based press by the OHCHR Media and Information Officer.

82. UNIS continued to take the lead in organizing commemorations at the Palais des Nations of international days, namely: International Day of Older Persons (1 October); International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October); International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March); International Day of the World's Indigenous People (9 August).

83. The OHCHR Media and Information Officer held daily press briefings during the fifty-sixth session of the Commission and prepared daily press reviews on the Commission and broader human rights issues, as well as a note to the media. These provided a clear overview of the agenda and its highlights. UNIS also ensured the availability of draft resolutions in the press room; apprised the Office of the Spokesman of the Secretary-General of daily developments; arranged press conferences by special rapporteurs and experts for the international broadcast media; and gave interviews to the media on issues raised at the Commission.

B. Activities of other United Nations information centres and services and United Nations Offices

84. More than 38 United Nations information centres (UNIC) and services and United Nations Offices (UNO) commemorated Human Rights Day on or around 10 December 1999. Working in cooperation with Governments, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, businesses and other members of civil society, the centres organized various special events: seminars, lectures, media round tables, training programmes, video/film screenings, press conferences, conferences, workshops, panel discussions and exhibits. A few activities selected from among all those undertaken by the centres were the following: UNIC Asunción organized an exhibit of works by several nationally

renowned artists on the theme "Human rights and older persons" at the National Museum; photo or art exhibits were organized in Lisbon, Maseru, Sydney, Yerevan and in Ostrava, Czech Republic, organized by UNIC Prague; training programmes for journalists were organized by the UNICs in Beirut and Bucharest and a round table was organized in Moscow; panel discussions with government representatives, NGOs and teachers were held at the UNICs Accra, Antananarivo, Tbilisi, Vienna and Dhaka, where a launch of a book of poetry on human rights was also organized; UNO Tashkent organized a special event for children with games and a concert; more than 10 centres organized lectures and film screenings for students; UNIC Mexico organized a special event highlighted by a jazz concert. Information centres also published various information materials to help promote the observance of the Day, such as a CD-Rom on the United Nations and human rights in Copenhagen; a poster for Human Rights Day and a book with a new compilation of major human rights instruments in Russian in Minsk; a poster/book on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for children in Yerevan; cassettes for the blind with the Universal Declaration in Spanish and Guarani in Asunción; and many press releases and articles. UNIC directors and information officers gave numerous interviews for radio, television and the print media on the occasion of the Day; they also lectured at universities in Moscow, New Delhi and Tehran and spoke to various audiences at special events organized with Governments, local authorities and NGOs. Public service announcements were prepared and/or translated to local languages and aired on national television networks in Harare and Minsk; UNO Almaty participated in the production of a TV programme on human rights; UNIC Ouagadougou produced a half-hour TV special for the Day and UNIC Port of Spain produced a live two hour special that was broadcast to all the countries in the Caribbean.

85. Press conferences were organized and radio programmes and press releases produced for the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture by centres in Beirut, Lisbon, Minsk and Panama and UNIC Prague organized a workshop. Assistance was provided and press conferences organized for the visiting Special Rapporteur on torture in Baku and Nairobi.

86. The International Day of the World's Indigenous People was marked by special events such as a panel discussion in Brazzaville, an information fair in Bucharest, press conferences in Nairobi and Harare which were broadcast on national TV, and a film screening in Rome. Officials in several centres were interviewed on national media on the occasion of the Day.

87. The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was also commemorated by several centres: a panel discussion was held in Brazzaville; a workshop in the Netherlands was organized by UNIC Brussels; a week-long seminar for NGOs was held in Copenhagen; a lecture for students was given in Moscow; public service announcements were produced in Prague and aired on television 15 times; articles were written for newspapers and UNIC officials were interviewed for radio and the print media.

88. Similar activities were undertaken for the International Day for Tolerance, including a media round table in Moscow, a lecture in Baku and a seminar in New Delhi, as well as for the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression (4 June).

89. Other events and programmes include two competitions for students in Asunción, one of them a competition of designs on children's rights held in cooperation with the national postal service, with the winning designs printed on stamps; a global ecumenical special

event, "72 hours of world peace", co-organized by UNIC Buenos Aires; an exhibition of drawings by children from Arab States in Tunis and training for staff of the newly created Tunisian Ministry for Human Rights by the Director of UNIC Tunis; an essay contest on human rights for students in Prague; and the organization of the "Human Rights Games" by UNIC Rio de Janeiro - a sports event for the youth in Rio featuring educational games and activities teaching children basic human rights.

90. Human rights instruments have been translated, printed, or reprinted by several UNICs, such as UNICs Lagos and Ankara which translated the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into local languages; Brussels, which reprinted the Universal Declaration in Dutch; Yangon, which reprinted the Universal Declaration in Myanmar; Colombo, which reprinted the International Bill of Human Rights in Sinhala; Dhaka, which translated into Bangla and printed the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

91. The tenth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child was marked by special events and press briefings in Accra, where the Convention has been translated into six local languages; Athens, where the UNIC organized an exhibition of children's drawings, Baku, where the UNO arranged for the broadcast of a press conference throughout the Commonwealth of Independent States; Brussels, Tashkent, Warsaw and Yerevan.

92. The upcoming World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance has been publicized by many information centres in connection with Human Rights Day or the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Among other events organized were: a workshop on racism in Belgium, organized by UNIC Brussels; an NGO meeting on the Conference and the International Day in Copenhagen; a briefing for students on racism and the Conference in Ouagadougou; production of a video message on the Conference by President Havel for Human Rights Day in Prague; a special issue of the UNIC newsletter on the Conference in Rabat. DPI information materials prepared for the Conference have been translated and produced in local languages by several centres.

93. Information centres provided assistance and logistical support and generated publicity for visiting United Nations officials including several special rapporteurs and the High Commissioner for Human Rights. In Brussels, Madrid, Mexico City, Moscow and Washington, press conferences, radio, television and newspaper interviews and other meetings were organized for the High Commissioner. Interviews with the High Commissioner were also facilitated for the media in Prague, Rome and Santa Fé de Bogotá.

94. In addition, the United Nations Secretary General's Op-Ed, "We the Peoples: the UN and Human Rights in the 21st Century", was translated and placed in about 50 major media outlets in over 20 countries. The High Commissioner's messages and an Op-Ed piece on the World Conference entitled "Fighting racism: enough talk, time for action" were placed in major newspapers in several countries in the spring of 2000.